

Netzer Administration Building State University of New York Oneonta, New York 13820-4015

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Received & Inspected

NOV 0 3 2008

FCC Mail Room

October 27, 2008

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW, Room 8-B201 Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW, Room 8-A302 Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Robert M. McDowell Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW, Room 8-C302 Washington, DC 20554 The Honorable Michael J. Copps Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW, Room 8-B115 Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW, Room 8-A204 Washington, DC 20554

Re: Universal Service Contribution Methodology

WC Docket No. 06-122

Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

CC Docket No. 96-45

### Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the State University of New York, College at Oneonta in response to reports that the FCC is considering a proposal to change the current system for determining the amount of contributions to the federal Universal Service Fund. As I understand this proposal, the FCC intends to base contributions to the fund from residential customers on how many telephone numbers are assigned to each carrier's customers, to retain the current revenue-based contribution mechanism for commercial customers, including colleges and universities, and to request comments on whether to modify the contribution system for commercial customers in the future. Further, it appears that the proposal rejects a suggestion by AT&T and Verizon that all contributions, including those from commercial customers, should be based on telephone number assignments. For the reasons described below, SUNY Oneonta believes that the FCC should not adopt any modification that uses telephone numbers to calculate commercial customers' contributions to the federal Universal Service Fund, and that the FCC should retain the current revenues-based system for commercial services until it can devise a system that does not impose an inequitable burden on large users of telephone numbers, including colleges and universities.

Any change in the contribution mechanism that depends solely on counting telephone numbers, without accounting for the way those numbers are used, would have a significant negative effect on colleges and universities because it would increase their universal service costs significantly. For instance, the AT&T/Verizon proposal would impose a uniform fee for each assigned telephone number in the U.S., a fee that they estimate would range from \$1.00 to \$1.10 per month. This fee would be assessed regardless of how many calls were

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This additional financial burden would be particularly onerous at this time. As you are aware, the current economic situation makes it difficult for colleges and universities to cover increased costs in any area. In addition, tuition increases are limited by both practical considerations and new mandates in the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, enacted over the summer. As a result, any increased universal service costs would have to be covered by reducing expenditures in other areas under already-tight budgets.

Retaining the current revenue-based system for calculating contributions for commercial services will avoid imposing this burden on colleges and universities, as well as other users that have many telephone numbers assigned to them, but will not prevent the Commission from reforming the contribution mechanism for consumer services. Maintaining the current system for commercial customers also will give the Commission the time to analyze and evaluate alternatives that can address the issues caused by revenue-based contributions without placing a disproportionate burden on non-profit colleges and universities. For instance, the Commission could recognize that the burden placed on the telephone network by large consumers of telephone numbers is not proportional to how many numbers are assigned to those customers, and adopt equivalency ratios like those that are now in place for the subscriber line charge. Regardless of the approach the Commission ultimately takes, it should ensure that colleges and universities do not experience the kind of rate shock that would result from adoption of a system based solely on number assignments, and should ensure that the potential customer impacts of any new contribution methodology are addressed before the new methodology is adopted.

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, four copies of this letter are being filed with the Secretary's office on this date.

Please inform me if any questions should arise in connection with this letter.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Graig-Tiso

Director of Telecommunications SUNY College at Oneonta

cc: Daniel Gonzalez
Amy Bender
Scott Deutchman
Scott Bergmann
Greg Orlando
Nicholas Alexander
Dana Shaffer
Jeremy Marcus
Alexander Minard
Carol Pomponio
Cindy Spiers
James Lande
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